

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-14 (cancelled)

15. (new): A genetic construct for the selective expression of a nucleic acid sequence in plant stomatal guard cells, said construct containing the nucleic acid sequence functionally linked to the promoter SEQ ID No. 1, or to a fragment or variant thereof having promoter activity.

16. (new): The construct of claim 15, wherein said promoter fragment contains SEQ ID No. 2.

17. (new): The construct of claim 15, wherein said promoter fragment contains SEQ ID No. 3.

18. (new): The construct of claim 15, wherein said promoter fragment contains SEQ ID No. 4.

19. (new): The construct of claim 15, wherein the nucleic acid sequence or the encoded product are involved in the intracellular signalling pathway modulated by abscisic acid (ABA).

20. (new): The construct of claim 19, wherein said nucleic acid sequence contains the coding sequences of Osml, Racl, Katl, Ostl or Chll genes.

21. (new): The construct of claim 19, wherein said nucleic acid sequence codes for an antisense RNA.

22. (new): A plant expression vector containing a genetic construct according to claim 15.

23. (new): The vector of claim 22, which is a bacterial plasmid, a bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC), a yeast artificial chromosome (YAC), a viral vector or a vector for Agrobacterium-mediated DNA transfer.

24. (new): The vector of claim 22, which is a binary vector for Agrobacterium-mediated DNA transfer.

25. (new): A monocotyledonous or dicotyledonous plant containing a vector according to claim 22.

26. (new): A method for the selective expression of nucleic acid sequences in stomatal guard cells, comprising introducing into said stomatal guard cells a vector according to claim 22.

27. (new): The method according to claim 26, wherein said heterologous sequence is involved in the regulation of stoma aperture/closure.

28. (new): A method for regulating the expression of nucleic acid sequences in a plant, which comprises introducing in said plant, in a vegetative or reproductive part thereof, a genetic construct according to claim 15.

29. (new): A monocotyledonous or dicotyledonous plant containing a construct according to claim 15.

30. (new): A method for the selective expression of nucleic acid sequences in stomatal guard cells, comprising introducing into said stomatal guard cells a construct according to claim 15.

31. (new): A method for regulating the expression of nucleic acid sequences in a plant, which comprises introducing in said plant, in a vegetative or reproductive part thereof, a vector according to claim 22.